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BULLETIN

Published by the Montana Fish and Game Commission

Volume One

January, 1944

Number One

Know Your Department

By Dr. J. W. Severy,

Chairman Montana Fish and Game Commission

The Fish and Game Department is the creature of the legislative assembly. As such, it serves the entire citizenry of the State. From the earliest days, title to wildlife and the management of wildlife has rested with the government of the individual state. That is one of the unique aspects of American government. The wildlife, wherever found, belongs to all: the child, the youth, the adult, the aged. All can enjoy its beauty and in its natural surroundings without cost. But, as conservation practices have become necessary, it has been the practice within the individual states for the sportsman who wishes to harvest a part of the wildlife to pay a reasonable charge for the privilege and so finance a Fish and Game Department. At the same time it has been a part of the philosophy of American government to give everyone an equal chance in hunting and fishing, rather than to restrict the opportunity to a privileged few. Since the wildlife belongs to all of the citizens it must be managed in such a way that use of land by wildlife will dovetail into other uses of the land by the citizens of the state. Wildlife is one of the big attractions in the recreational use of land. It thus benefits directly and indirectly many businesses, putting cash into the tills of filling stations, hotels, restaurants, sporting goods stores, outfitters, ranchers and many others. It helps to build a sound state economy, encouraging out-of-state visitors. Thus, wildlife gives to the citizens who own a share in it, both pleasure and profit.

History

The first board of Game and Fish Commissioners was established by the legislature, and officially took office March 14, 1895. The Fish and Game Department was organized April 1, 1901. The first game warden was Mr. W. F. Scott, and the law enforcement personnel was limited to eight at that time.

It is a long way from that early beginning to the Fish and Game Department of today. Now, as in the beginning, responsibility for the policies of the Department and the laying out of its activities rests with the Montana State Fish and Game Commission, whose members

are appointed by the Governor, one from each of 5 state commissioner districts. The State Fish and Game Warden, appointed by the Commission, is, in fact, the executive officer of the Fish and Game Department, and also, by statute, serves as secretary to the Commission. As contrasted to the original eight law enforcement officers allowed by law, the Department is now allowed one chief deputy fish and game warden and twenty-seven regular deputy fish and game wardens. The statutes also allow the hiring of special deputy fish and game wardens as occasion may demand.

Powers and Duties

The powers and duties of the Commission are defined in a lengthy statute, section 3653, portions of which are quoted: "The Commission hereby created shall have supervision over all the wildlife, fish, game and non-game birds and waterfowl, and the game and fur-bearing animals of the State, and shall possess all powers necessary to fulfill the duties prescribed by law with respect thereto, and to bring actions in the proper courts of this State for the enforcement of the fish and game laws of the State, and the orders, rules, and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Commission." "It shall have authority to enter into cooperative agreements with federal agencies, municipalities, corporations, organized groups of land owners, associations and individuals for the development of game, bird, fish, or fur-bearing animal management and demonstration projects . . ." "It shall have authority to fix seasons and bag limits, open or close, shorten or lengthen seasons, except as otherwise provided by law, on any species of game, bird, fish, or fur-bearing animal, in any specific locality or localities of the entire State, when it shall find, after said investigation, that such action is necessary to assure the maintenance of an adequate supply thereof. . . ." "It shall have authority to divide the state into fish and game districts, and to create fish, game, or fur-bearing animal districts throughout the State of Montana and to declare closed season for hunting, fishing, or trapping in any of

(Continued on Page 4)

Golden Eagle vs. Bighorn Sheep

By Faye Couey



THERE is a conception prominent among outdoorsmen that eagles are one of the contributors to losses among Bighorn Sheep. A few facts were gained from observations during the Bighorn Sheep investigational work in the Sun River area.

Golden Eagles are quite common in this area, both on the winter and summer sheep ranges. The nest which we chose to observe was located in Big George Gulch and the following visits were made:

On September 30, 1942, this nest was first visited. It is situated under a slight overhang in the cliff and back in a crevice which protects it from the wind and rain. It can be seen from above as a ledge protrudes enabling one to look down at an angle of 20 degrees and from a distance of about 30 feet. It is constructed of brush and twigs—probably of many year's accumulation, and is about six feet in diameter. First observations showed the bones of a front quarter of some large animal. Below the nest there were a few small mammal bones, a larger bone (probably deer), and some coyote hair. It was not possible to determine if the nest had been used during 1942.

On May 19, 1943, there was an adult eagle on the nest which remained while I stood and watched. It flew away when a stick was tossed toward the nest and perched on a snag about a quarter of a mile away. The male bird soared over the nest once. The mammal bones seen previously were gone (a piece was found below the nest and is now en route to a laboratory to be spe-

cifically identified). Fresh pine twigs and branches had been placed in the nest. One young eagle and an egg were in the nest. The eaglet was about two to five days old and made occasional peeping sounds. The remains of eight Columbian ground squirrels were in the nest.

Ground Squirrels Used

On May 27th, the nest was again visited and the remains of 12 ground squirrels were found. The one young eagle had grown considerably, but the other egg was not yet hatched. The adult eagle flew at my approach.

On June 7th, the adult left the nest when I was about 100 yards from it. The eaglet was quite large and awkward, lying sprawled out in the nest. Its feet and beak were yellow and its body covered with white down. It made peeping sounds similar to that of a young turkey. One egg still in the nest, but apparently is not going to hatch. The remains of five ground squirrels and feathers from a blue grouse were present. Several fresh aspen branches had been brought to freshen the nest.

On July 1st, the eaglet was much larger with black feathers covering the body but with some white down on the sides and belly. It had well developed primary wing and tail feathers. The mouth and feet were yellow. The remains of one ground squirrel was in the nest as well as some feathers which could have been from the blue grouse seen on my visit of June 7th. The remains of what looked like a wood rat were seen. Two fresh aspen branches with leaves were in the nest. One adult was seen on a reef, but it did not come near.

On July 7th, one entire day was spent observing this nest. I arrived at 6:45 a. m. and concealed myself beneath a low fir tree. The adult left at my approach. There was a piece of bloody skin which looked like a red squirrel in the nest. No activity about the nest during the morning. At 12:15 one adult was seen cruising to the west of the reef; at 1:55 saw both adults to the west; at 3:30 observed both adults to the west; at 4:00 left in a thunder storm. The eaglet did not get much to eat this day. I was well hidden so am certain the adults did not see me. Possibly hunting was poor, explaining why no food was brought in. The eaglet spent most of its time watching swallows sailing about near the nest.

On May 28th, the eaglet was still there. It could walk this time and would change its position occasionally, stretching and flapping its wings. Its beak was half black and the mouth yellow. The feet were yellow with black claws. The legs were cov-



(Continued)

GOLDEN EAGLE VS. BIGHORN SHEEP

ered with shaggy black feathers on the outside and white ones on the inside. There was no food in the nest.

On July 29th, the nest was again visited to get some pictures. A fresh aspen branch was there. A fawn's foot and about ten inches of the leg was lying in the nest. Possibly rodents were harder to catch as summer progressed, or possibly the diet changed, but it seemed that the young bird was not getting very much to eat.

On August 11th, my final visit to the nest, the young eagle was gone. The deer foot was still there and also a well cleaned bone looking like the scapula or shoulder blade of a fawn.

Summary

From these observations it appeared that the main food of young eagles is rodents and other small animals. With the progress of the season possibly the squirrels get more wary and harder to catch, or it is probable that the young bird devours the squirrel in its entirety. Larger animals appear in the diet later in the summer, perhaps because of the increased demand for food for the growing eaglets. It is unknown how much of their diet consists of the larger animals and cannot be determined except by actual observation because many pieces of meat might be brought in without identifying bones being present. No definite evidence has been found that Bighorn Sheep have been used as food, although there seems nothing to preclude this fact as deer were found to have been taken. Last February, two eagles were seen feeding on a calf elk which died the night before—they had eaten the liver and heart.

Bighorn ewes with small lambs were seen in close vicinity of this eagle's nest during the period of incubation and even after the first egg had hatched, but they were unconcerned, even when the eagles flew over them in search of food.

Other Observations

The following quotations from several different authors give their observations regarding the food habits of eagles:

John Muir—"Eagles and coyotes, no doubt, capture an unprotected lamb at times, or some unfortunate beset in deep snow, but these cases are little more than accidents."

T. Gilbert Pearson, Chairman, Pan American Section—International Commission for Bird Conservation (1006 5th Avenue, New York)—"Regarding the Golden Eagle, it is undoubtedly true that this species occasionally attacks mountain sheep and perhaps the domestic form. In Alaska I have twice seen eagles attempting to get hold of a Bighorn lamb, but each time they were unsuccessful."

Joseph S. Dixon, Fish and Wildlife Service, Berkely, California, in reply to an inquiry — "That in over 40 years field investigations covering Bighorn from the Mexican boundary to Mt. McKinley in Alaska, I have been unable to find positive evidence that Golden Eagles are a serious menace to young mountain sheep, although

literature, particularly in sporting magazines, would indicate quite the contrary."

Dr. Fisher, James B. Dixon and Charles Sheldon, in their studies of the Golden Eagles versus Bighorns, report they have found no conclusive evidence where sheep have been the victims of Golden Eagles, but all maintain it is possible and probable but not believed at all general.

From Wyoming Bighorn Sheep Study—"In the spring of 1940 an eagle's nest was discovered in the very heart of the lambing grounds. Two eaglets were raised in the nest and it was under continuous observation from June 1, to August 1, at which time the eagles left. Every time the nest was visited it was well supplied with food. Jack rabbits and ground squirrels were the most common food items. After the eaglets left the nest was torn apart and food remains and all pellets were carefully studied by Dr. Murie. It need only be said here that no remains of lambs or adult sheep were found."

From Idaho Mountain Sheep Survey—"No reliable evidence of predation of eagles on lambs or mature sheep has been discovered this year. There are at least four eagles in this area and they have been closely observed for long periods of time. On no occasion have they been seen to molest the sheep although they have been often seen hunting over the same area on which the sheep are grazing. During the lambing period and until the lambs were about six weeks old there were no eagles seen on the area. They were evidently nesting in the crags at the time. Sometimes the mountain sheep would ignore the presence of the eagles and sometimes one of the ewes would take a watchful stance while the eagle was directly overhead. The eagles are no doubt capable of killing a young lamb, but the survival of the young lambs through the yearling stage would seem to discredit the menace of the eagle as so popularly reported by local enthusiasts."

Summarizing these observations, it would seem logical in the face of the meager evidence presented against it as a predator on Bighorn Sheep, that the Golden Eagle should not be considered as a limiting factor to the increase of mountain sheep.

ATTENTION ALL SECRETARIES OF SPORTSMEN'S GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Commission requests that you submit your recommendations for all changes in the present fishing regulations which you wish to have incorporated in the 1944-1945 Fishing Regulations. Your recommendations should be received not later than February 1, 1944.

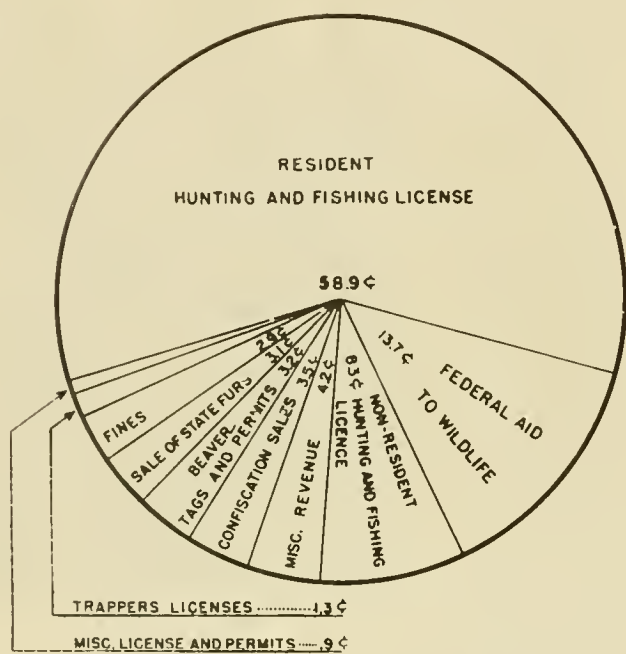
Recommendations for any changes in the Big Game Regulations should also be submitted not later than February 1, 1944.

The fishing and big game recommendations should be submitted in separate letters to facilitate the compilation of any changes and mailed to the State Fish and Game Department, Helena, Montana. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

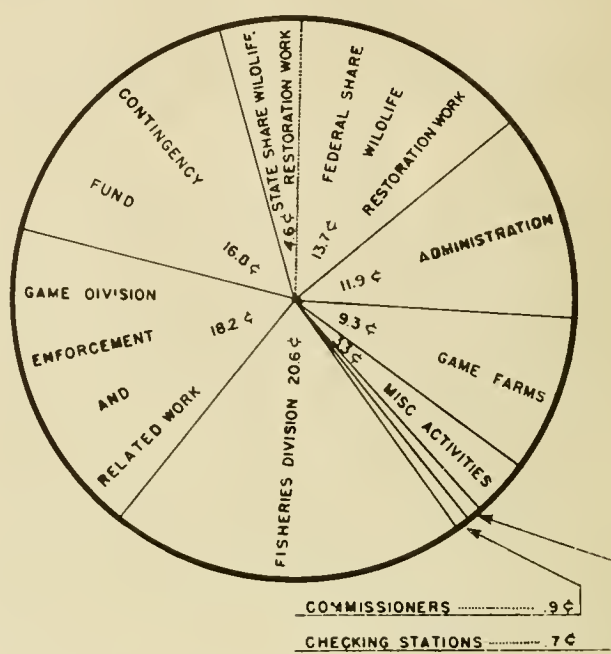
A LICENSE YEAR REPORT

STATE OF MONTANA FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
FROM

MAY 1, 1942 TO APRIL 30, 1943



WHERE THE INCOME DOLLAR CAME FROM



HOW THE INCOME DOLLAR WAS USED

KNOW YOUR DEPARTMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

said districts, so created, and later to open said districts to hunting, fishing, or trapping. . . . "It shall have authority to establish game refuges. . . ."

The above mentioned statute has many other clauses authorizing the establishment of fish hatcheries, game farms, restoration areas, rearing ponds, educational and biological work, and many other procedures and activities.

It is therefore the duty of the Fish and Game Commission through the enforcement of legislative statutes and of the regulations promulgated by itself, under authority of powers delegated to it by the legislature, to do everything in its power to protect, preserve, and propagate fish, game, and fur-bearing animals, game and non-game birds within the State of Montana, to the end that each citizen may enjoy wildlife populations maintained at as high a level as is consistent with the productivity and use of those lands and waters which are used by wildlife.

Income

The Department has never been supported by a general legislative appropriation. Its income is derived through receipts from the sale of the various classes of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses together with miscellaneous receipts from other sources.

With the coming of the standard highway system and the modern automobile, the pressure upon Montana's wildlife resources jumped by leaps and bounds. Just before the war Montana was selling close to 100,000 resident bird and fish licenses, and between 45,000 and 50,000 resident big game licenses per year. Sales of non-resident licenses were increasing annually. Total receipts vary from year to year, but apparently the Department can count on an average income of at least \$325,000.00 annually in normal times. As the picture looks now an income of \$325,000.00 would be expended in the average year about as follows:

General administration, in-

cluding law enforcement	\$160,000.00—\$170,000.00
Game Farms	30,000.00— 40,000.00
Fisheries	90,000.00— 100,000.00
Wildlife Restoration Division,	
State contribution	25,000.00— 27,000.00

The totals for each activity would vary from year to year according to funds available and with the relative needs of the various activities. The gross expenses, listed for each activity, includes the cost of capital equipment, maintenance costs, supplies, salaries and wages.

NOTE—Parts of the above article were given in a recent radio address over the Z-Bar Net by Dr. Severy.

Eastern Montana Fish Distribution Program

There has been an outstanding need for many years for a coordinated planting program of the warm water fish in the many reservoirs throughout the Eastern part of this State.

Last year a preliminary survey was made of the many reservoirs which would either require stocking or be in need of the introduction of species other than those which were present at that time.

This survey showed many hundreds of potential reservoirs which were in need of a definite classification, and, if found desirable, to carry out the stocking program as quickly as possible.

As a further result of these findings, Deputy Game Warden John Cook, with headquarters at Glendive, Montana, was placed in charge of the distribution of all warm water fish for the entire Eastern portion of Montana.

At the present time there is only one Pond Culture Station, which is located at Miles City, Montana, and operated by the Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the State Fish and Game Department, devoted exclusively to the propagation of warm water fish. The State Department also brought into production for the first time this year a warm water rearing pond located on the Bowdoin Refuge near Malta, Montana. The rescue operations from this pond were very successful and contributed very substantially to the stocking of many reservoirs located in the Northern and Eastern part of the State. The majority of the output of the Miles City Station was directed to the reservoirs in the Southern and Eastern part of the State, thereby cutting down transportation mileage as much as possible.

The stocking of warm water reservoirs carries with it the one favorable possibility that when once properly stocked, there is very little likelihood that they will need restocking for many years unless the pond is subject to winter killing or other adverse factors.

The majority of warm water species reproduce in such tremendous numbers that when once properly stocked it is usually a question of not enough fishing pressure rather than too much which governs the size of the fish to be taken from such waters for if such ponds are not subjected to sufficient fishing pressures, the populations become so numerous and the competition for natural food becomes so severe that such fish are inclined to maintain what might be termed a balance of growth in relation to available food supplies and very often are found to be consistently small and stunted whereas if such ponds are fished quite heavily and the populations are consequently reduced, the remaining fish are found to be much larger and more desirable for all angling purposes.

In fact there have been several instances of reservoirs which have been found to be badly overstocked and through seining operations and the transporting of these netted fish to other waters the number remaining have made substantial growth rates and the public have been found to again start fishing whereas previously the average fish were too small to arouse enough local interest and induce the sportsmen to spend their recreational hours at these places.

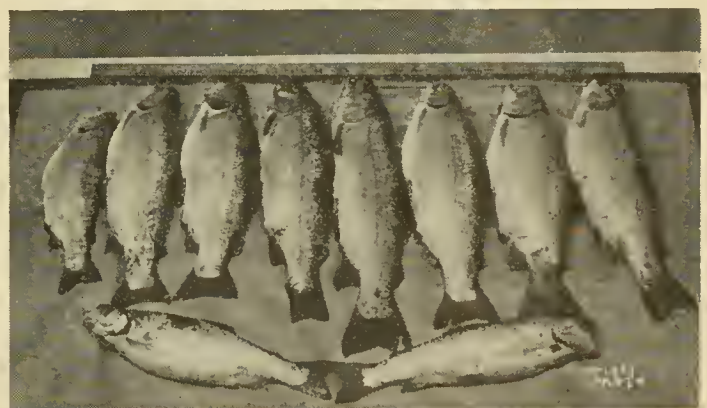
It has also been found from the plantings and the findings carried out during the past two years that for the best results there should be a definite balance between several warm water species and the introduction of Bream, Crappies and Bass seem to, under average conditions, produce better angling results than the introduction of other species such as Perch, Catfish or Bullheads.

It is the intention of this Department to enlarge upon this planting program for the coming year and render whatever assistance is necessary to the person in charge. With the findings of the last two years and the equipment which we now have it will be possible to complete the stocking of practically every reservoir which has been found suitable throughout the entire State.

The splendid cooperation which has been extended by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the executives of the Soil Conservation Service at Malta, Plentywood and other regions is deeply appreciated and will contribute in no small degree to the early completion of this stocking program.

EGGS TAKEN — 1943

Loch Leven	4,321,344
Eastern Brook	3,443,980
Rainbow	6,151,200
Sockeye	3,356,780
(Seining not completed)	



Ten Rainbow Trout — Weight 34½ Pounds.
Caught on October 5, 1943 by Don Hetline and Jack Hanson in
Fresno Lake near Havre.



At current market prices the beaver pelts in this picture are worth approximately \$8,700.00.

Fur Seasons for 1943-1944 . . .

MINK—November 15 to December 31, inclusive.

MUSKRATS—March 1 to April 15, inclusive.

RACCOON—November 15 to December 31, inclusive.

FOX—November 15 to December 31, inclusive.

There will be no open season on marten, otter and fisher.

BEAVER—Closed, exceptions, see Game Laws.

The shooting of beaver and muskrats is prohibited.

Predators—Coyote, wolf, wolverine, mountain lion, wild cat, weasel, skunk and civet cat, blackfooted ferret and bobcat.

Trapping License Fees:

Regular Trapping License\$10.00

Land Owner's Trapping License..... 1.00

All Federal and State Preserves are closed to trapping and hunting except upon the issuance of a permit by the State Fish and Game Department as far as State Preserves are concerned or Federal Refuge Managers as far as Federal Preserves are concerned.

NO TRAPPING will be permitted in that area included within Flathead and Lincoln Counties bounded on the east by the North Fork of the Flathead River, on the south and west by the Great Northern right-of-way beginning at Coram thence northwest to Eureka on highway No. 93 from Eureka to Roosevelt and on the north by the international line, with the exception of private lands occupied by legal owners until further notice, however, coyotes may be killed or trapped in the above described area.

Dry Does . . .

Each year following the close of the deer season this Department receives letters from conscientious hunters stating that they had seen many dry does while hunting the elusive bucks.

A dry doe is commonly defined in hunting circles as one which has not raised a fawn to the weaning stage. The common complaint is the fear that the sex ratio is unbalanced and bucks should be protected. It is possible that there may be some small isolated areas where this condition exists, yet in check areas we find that a normal increase prevails. Some loss of fawns must be attributed to predators and other natural causes.

At our checking station located at Ennis in Madison County only 44 bucks were checked out during the regular hunting season from October 15 to November 15. Since this latter date the season has remained opened in two areas of the county for deer of either sex. Fawns were included since they are too difficult to differentiate from does this late in the year. From October 15 to December 23 the checking station report shows a total of 403 deer taken:

Fawns	93	—	23%
Does	143	—	35%
Bucks	167	—	42%

If we disallow the forty-four bucks taken prior to the time the season was opened on either sex, then the fawn crop is 25.9% of the total and may for all practical purposes indicate the annual increase in this area.

It is rather difficult for most hunters to correctly determine in the hunting season whether a doe has had a fawn with her during the summer. Frequently an examination of the mammary glands will show the presence of milk which is quite conclusive. On the other hand a dry mammary gland is not conclusive that the doe was barren.

In checks made during the last two winters by the Wildlife Restoration crews we find the following sex ratio. This information was gathered on deer positively identified as to sex:

MADISON—Ruby Unit:

396 Mule Deer — 1 Buck to 3.4 does

CHEERY CREEK GAME PRESERVE:

310 Mule Deer — 1 Buck to 2.8 does

145 White Tail — 1 Buck to 2.5 does

THOMPSON RIVER:

741 White Tail — 1 Buck to 2.2 does

89 Mule Deer — 1 Buck to 3.8 does

LINCOLN COUNTY:

Whitetail and Mule

Deer — 1 Buck to 2.9 does

Game Management men consider one buck to six does a safe breeding ratio.

Any member of the Armed Forces is entitled to resident hunting and fishing privileges.

Big Game Seasons . . .

E L K

Lewis & Clark County:

Open Area: That portion of Lewis and Clark County from the North Fork of the Dearborn River to the North Fork of Sun River, including that portion of the drainage of the North Fork of the Dearborn River lying west of the river above Blacktail Creek, shall be open to the hunting of elk of either sex from October 15 to January 15, both dates inclusive, provided that when 600 elk have been taken, the State Game Warden shall have authority to close same upon two days' notice at any time after October 31.

Park County:

Regular Season: The regular open season for the hunting of elk of either sex in Park County extends from October 15 to March 1, both dates inclusive; provided that the State Fish and Game Warden shall have authority to close the season on three days' notice.

Closed Area: The following described area shall be closed to the hunting of elk: Beginning at Gardiner and following the Gardiner-Jardine road, thence around the city limits of Jardine and along the Jardine-Crevise road to its forks just north of Clyde Gilbert's hunting camp, thence following the lower road to Palmer Creek, thence in an easterly direction along Palmer Creek to the bridge near the old McCauley Mill, thence in a southerly direction along the old trail to the Park line, thence west along the Park line to Gardiner, the point of beginning.

Hours of shooting elk in Park County shall be from 9:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m., war time, during the regular open season from October 15 to March 1, both dates inclusive.

Madison County:

Open Area: (Special Season)—The following area shall be open to the hunting of elk of either sex from November 15 to February 1, both dates inclusive:

Beginning at the intersection of Indian Creek and State Highway No. 1, thence east following Indian Creek to the divide between the Madison River and the Gallatin River near Yellow Mule station, thence north and west along the divide to the headwaters of Mill Creek, thence west down Mill Creek to State Highway No. 1, thence south along Highway No. 1 to the place of beginning.

Deer Lodge and Powell Counties:

Open Area: (Extended Season). The following area shall remain open to the hunting of elk of either sex from November 16th to January 31st, both dates inclusive:

Beginning at the intersection of Dry Creek and Highway No. 10A, thence in a southerly direction up Dry Creek to its intersection with the township line between townships 4 and 5 north, thence west along said township line approximately 11 miles to its intersection with the Middle Fork of Rock Creek, thence northerly down the Middle Fork of Rock Creek to its intersection with the Skalkaho Road, thence in a northeasterly direction to its intersection with Highway No. 10A, thence in a southeasterly direction along Highway No. 10A to its intersection with Dry Creek, the point of beginning.

Big Game Results . . .

Only once before in the State records has September been such a warm month. Early October continued to be warm. When the big game season opened, the deer and elk were all at higher elevations. The forest vegetation was dry and the flies were still numerous. Hunters were meat hungry and didn't want to spend much time corralling their winter's supply. The usual snow storms which drive the big game down didn't arrive and at this late date we find that our game is still grazing at higher elevations and apparently not interested in starting for their winter ranges. The total kill of the past regular hunting season has been very small. From checking station records we obtain the following data:

Sun River	Elk —194
	Deer—204

Flathead National Forest	
South Fork	Elk —754
Middle Fork	
Swan River	

Ennis	Elk — 47
	Deer—403

Hamilton—Skalkaho East Fork.....	Elk — 46
	Deer—186

Judith River	Elk — 7
	Deer— 92

Gallatin	Elk —396
	Deer—109

Gardiner Area..... Small kill to date
due to mild weather the elk have not migrated
from ranges in Yellowstone Park.



Mule Deer on winter range in Fish Creek Drainage West of Missoula

NOV 6 1947

WITH THE WARDENS

November and December are two heavy work months for all the Wardens. Big Game, Chinese Pheasant, Hungarian Partridge and migratory waterfowl claim much attention. Then certain fur bearers may be caught starting November 15.

All beaver applications must be filed by December 1 and then the Wardens are on the double to inspect each applicant's land before winter sets in. It seems only natural that most applicants wait until the deadline to apply for relief even though they have been damaged for several months.

Some Wardens are giving demonstrations to landowners on the methods of trapping, skinning and stretching beaver. The proper care of a pelt enhances its value. Thousands of dollars are lost annually because pelts are not properly cared for.

Deer and elk poachers will keep the Wardens busy when winter sets in. Too many individuals are not willing to play the game fair and thereby take advantage of the sportsmen who is willing to take his chances during the proper season when everyone has an equal opportunity.

Black market reports indicate that trapping pheasants on a commercial basis is assuming some importance. Evidence recently collected shows that birds trapped and not shot have been responsible for the death of the birds.

Violations . . .

During the month of November the Deputy Game Wardens made sixty-seven arrests. Total reported fines imposed were \$1,650.00. Possessing more than the legal limit of hen pheasants seems to be the main stumbling block.

FORMER EMPLOYEES NOW IN THE ARMED FORCES

J. P. Campbell	Ben Whale
A. A. O'Claire	Bob Brink
C. N. Lindsay	Robert Casebeer
R. H. Lambeth	Wm. E. Schultz
Lester Newman	Julius K. Stinson
J. Thompson	Burke Thompson
Waldo Vangsness	Forest Keller
C. E. Willey	Ed Furnish
Don Brown	Bill Thompson
Donald Wright	

The Kodiak Brown bears are the largest living carnivores in the world.

The "mouse weasel" which occupies Alaska and Northern Canada has the distinction of being the smallest known species of carnivores in the world.

Of the trout commonly found in Montana the native and Rainbow are spring spawners, while the Eastern Brook, Lock Leven, Machinaw and Dolly Varden trout spawn in the fall.

SPORTSMEN'S ATTENTION

This edition of "Montana Wildlife" is the first of three we will print. Continuation after publication of the third edition depends entirely on whether you feel the paper is worthwhile. Financial support is derived from the Department's funds and we must know if you feel the paper serves as a useful medium. After reviewing its contents will you kindly advise us if you feel it should be continued.

Antelope Season . . .

This year Montana conducted its first antelope hunt since 1936. Permits were issued to those applicants whose names were drawn at the public drawing held August 20.

The total kill allowed in Carter and Powder River Counties was not reached because many of the permit holders lived too far away and would not travel the distance necessary to reach the hunting grounds.

At the present time a thorough aerial census is being made in anticipation of a 1944 season.

Antelope Report from Return Cards

County	Permits Issued	No. Killed	Not Killed	Total Reported
Carter	400	287	66	353
Powder River	100	68	19	87
Meagher & Wheatland	200	100 bucks 69 does	18	187
Hill	50	21 bucks 8 does	2	31

There are 1,418 rivers and streams and 594 lakes which are suitable for planting fish in Montana. There are 4,084 minor streams and 995 small lakes which at present are not suitable for planting fish.

Bats are winged mammals and the only mammals which actually fly. Flying squirrels do not fly but glide from a higher elevation to a lower.

The Wolverine is the largest member of the weasel family in Montana.

Sec. 562, P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
HELENA, MONTANA
Permit No. 8